

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12855 021223Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-05 ACDA-10 IO-14
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02
/121 W

-----042952 021917Z /46

R 021128Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7913
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS CAIRO 12855

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG, LY
SUBJECT: EGYPT/LIBYA; PRESS WAR MUTED BORDERS OPEN

1. COMMENT CONTINUES. EGYPTIAN PRESS AUGUST 2 WAS SOMEWHAT MORE
MUTED IN COMMENTING ON LIBYA THAN HAS BEEN CASE IN RECENT DAYS.
NEVERTHELESS, PROPAGANDA BATTLE CLEARLY NOT OVER.

2. TUNIS. PAPERS HIGHLIGHT AUGUST 1 CLASH BETWEEN LIBYAN AND
EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS AT TUNIS MEETING OF ARAB INFORMATION MINISTERS.
PRESS QUOTES EGYPTIAN DELEGATE MURSI SA'AD EL DIN, IN RESPONSE
TO LIBYAN ATTACK, AS DENIGRATING LIBYA'S ARAB CREDENTIALS BY
NOTING ABSENCE OF LIBYAN FORCES FROM SUCCESSIVE ARAB-ISRAELI
BATTLEFIELDS. ADDITIONALLY, LOCAL PAPERS INTERPRET LIBYAN
ISOLATION AT MEETING AS DEMONSTRATING THAT IT, ALONE AMONG ARAB
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NATIONS, APPROVES OF "ETHIOPIAN HOLOCAUST IN ERIATREA AND SOMALIA".
ACCORDING CAIRO PRESS, MEETING RECESSED AS RESULT EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN
VERBAL CLASH AND RESUMED ONLY FOLLOWING LIBYAN APOLOGY, APPARENTLY
SOLICITED VIA YEMENI, SYRIAN AND TUNISIAN MEDIATION.

3. SALEM. PRIME MINISTER SALEM IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS PEOPLES
ASSEMBLY LATER TODAY, AUGUST 2, ON SUBJECT OF EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

WITH LIBYA AND, PARTICULARLY, ON WHAT GOE IS DOING TO PROTECT EGYPTIANS WORKING THERE. SESSION AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESULT OF QUESTIONS TABLED BY MP'S ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. LIBYAN AMBASSADOR. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN PRESS, LIBYAN AMBASSADOR IN NICOSIA ADMITTED, IN "PRESS CONFERENCE", DEATH OF SINGLE SOVIET ADVISOR, AND INJURIES TO UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF OTHER SOVIET PERSONNEL, AS RESULT RECENT EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN FIGHTING. AMBASSADOR QUOTED AS STATING LIBYA WILL NOT REMOVE MILLILES FROM EGYPTIAN BORDER, NOR WILL IT CEASE HOSTILE PROPAGANDA UNLESS EGYPT DOES SAME. ACCORDING CAIRO ACCOUNT, AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED WITH CLAIM THAT HE HAS RECRUITED 15-16 CYPRIOTS TO JOIN LIBYAN FORCES.

5. U.S. DENIAL/TOBRUK CLASH. PAPERS NOTE U.S. DENIAL OF LIBYAN CHARGE THAT U.S. AIRMEN PARTICIPATED IN ATTACK ON LIBYA, WHILE RESURRECTING CHARGE THAT LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE FORCES CLASHED WITH "RIVALS" AT CAMP NEAR TOBRUK DURING RECENT BORDER FIGHTING.

6. JUDICIOUS COMMENT. MEMBER OF EGYPTIAN JUDICIAL TEAM, WHICH RETURNED FROM LIBYA JULY 30, TOLD PRESS THAT GROUP HAD RESIGNED EN MASSE AS RESULT FEELINGS OF INSECURITY FOLLOWING LIBYAN INITIATION OF DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST EGYPT. REPRESENTATIVE CLAIMED LIBYAN PEOPLE DO NOT SHARE THEIR LEADERS' ANTIPATHY TOWARD EGYPT AND CONDEMN THESE "SLANDEROUS ALLEGATIONS".

7. EDITORIAL. AHAM SIGNED EDITORIAL AUGUST 2 SARCASTICALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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DESCRIBES QADHAFI PRETENTIONS TO HOLINESS, CITING HIS DRINKING MILK AND WEARING BEADS IN EFFORT EMULATE PROPHETS. AHAM CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT "NO PROPHET WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE MARQUEES OF DEFAMATION STANDING EVERYWHERE IN LIBYA, NOR WOULD (PROPHET) BE REASSURED . . . TO HEAR FRENZIED SHOUTS AND RABID SLANDERS BLARED OUT THROUGH MICROPHONES AGAINST EGYPTIANS."

8. OPEN BORDERS. DESPITE ABOVE, PRESS REPORTS THAT EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN BORDER NOW OPEN AND FIRST BUS FROM BENGHAZI EXPECTED TO ARRIVE TODAY, AUGUST 2, IN ALEXANDRIA WITH 36 PASSENGERS. EILTS

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